

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00682 051022Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7758
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0682

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA: NKOMO WANTS TO MOVE AHEAD

1. I WAS AWAKENED VERY EARLY SUNDAY MORNING BY THE SLAMMING
OF A CAR DOOR AND, WHEN I WENT TO THE FRONT DOOR, BY THE
SMILING FACE OF JOSHUA NKOMO. HE HAD BROUGHT HIS OWN AND
SIX OTHER PASSPORTS TO GET VISAS TO THE U.S. FOR WHICH HE
WANTED TO LEAVE THE SAME EVENING IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATES.

2. AFTER GIVING ME THE PASSPORTS, HE ASKED "WHEN ARE WE
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00682 051022Z

GOING TO GET TOGETHER AGAIN?" IN SOMEWHAT LESS COHERENT
TERMS THAN APPEAR BELOW, I TOLD HIM HE SHOULD DISCUSS THIS
WITH ANDY YOUNG IN NEW YORK BUT THAT I THOUGHT TO GET TO-
GETHER AGAIN WITHOUT THE PROSPECTS OF MAKING SIGNIFICANT
PROGRESS WOULD NOT BE WISE. BASED ON OUR LAST CONVERSATION
I SAID I WAS NOT SURE HOW FAR WE COULD GET. THE BRITISH
WERE SIMPLY NOT PREPARED TO MOVE IN TO A SITUATION WHICH

THEY COULD NOT CONTROL. THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER MUST HAVE ADEQUATE AUTHORITY DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD INCLUDING PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF SECURITY AND LAW AND ORDER. THE ARMIES TOO WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDER HIS COMMAND AS FAR AS I COULD SEE)

3. NKOMO JOVIALY WAVED ALL THIS ASIDE, SAYING, IN HIS BEST ELLIPTICAL STYLE, THAT HE WAS SIMPLY TRYING TO POINT OUT THAT YOU COULD NOT DISCUSS THE AUTHORITY OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER SEPARATE FROM THE OTHER MATTERS WHICH NEEDED TO BE RESOLVED. WE HAD TO DECIDE ON THE ARMY AND THE POLICE. "WE MUST ARRANGE HOW WE PARTICIPATE TOGETHER WITH THE SMITH FORCES IN THE ARMY AND THE POLICE FIRST." AFTER THAT EVERYTHING COULD BE WORKED OUT.

4. I THEN UNDERSTOOD NKOMO TO SAY THAT IF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLICE, THEN IT MUST BE CERTAIN THAT ITS PEOPLE WERE NOT CONFINED TO BARRACKS. TO MY QUESTION OF WHETHER HE MEANT INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, HE REPLIED "BOTH." I SAID I COULD UNDERSTAND THAT THOSE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY WOULD NOT BE IN THE BARRACKS.

5. COMMENT: IT WAS AN EARLY HOUR TO NEGOTIATE BUT IF I UNDERSTOOD HIM CORRECTLY THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE EVER HEARD NKOMO ADMIT THE POSSIBILITY OF NOT REPEAT NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE POLICE FORCE. CERTAINLY THE GENERAL
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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 00682 051022Z

THRUST OF WHAT HE WAS SAYING WAS THAT WE SHOULD GET STARTED TALKING AGAIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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